

BEST AVAILABLE COPY PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,430,449 to Hsu et al. and claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hsu et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed toward an implantable stimulation lead comprised in part by a lead body connected to at least one electrode, the lead body including at least a distal portion having at least two non-helical bends dimensioned to passively anchor the distal portion of the lead body in a coronary vein overlying a left ventricle. The at least one electrode is located on one of the at least two non-helical bends so that the at least one electrode is adapted to contact one of the sides of the vessel wall of the coronary vein to enable one or more of cardiac sensing, pacing, cardioversion or defibrillation of the left ventricle. Applicants respectfully submit that Hsu et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, Hsu et al. disclose a lead system having a first atrial catheter having a serried of lateral deflections for lodging a distal end of the catheter within the coronary sinus vein such that a first atrial electrode is adjacent to and in physical contact with a portion of the left atrium chamber. (Hsu et al., col. 5, lines 36-48). Hsu et al. do not however, disclose or suggest a lead system having at least two non-helical bends to passively anchor a distal section of a lead in coronary vein to enable one or more of cardiac sensing, pacing, cardioversion or defibrillation of the left ventricle as recited in applicants' claimed invention.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Hsu et al. and is allowable. Applicants further submit that claims 2-17 that depend from claim 1 are allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited references, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

[Signature]
Peter A. Nichols
Reg. No. 47,822
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 36802

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